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SCIENCE

A WEEKLY JOURNAL DEVOTED TO THE ADVANCEMENT OF SCIENCE, PUBLISHING THE OFFICIAL NOTICES AND PROCEEDINGS OF THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF SCIENCE.

FRIDAY, MAY 26, 1905.

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THE GENERAL MEETING OF THE AMERICAN PHILOSOPHICAL SOCIETY.

THE annual general meeting of the American Philosophical Society was held this year during Wednesday, Thursday and Friday of the second week in April. The sessions as usual were held in the rooms of the society in Philadelphia. The number in attendance, including non-resident members, resident members and others, was quite as large as on previous similar occasions, while the quantity and character of the papers offered, together with the discussion on them, called forth much favorable comment. The program was especially broad in its scope, including the various departments of natural and physical science, of literature and of problems in economics.

On Thursday the society sent, through its secretary, Dr. I. Minis Hays, a telegram of greeting to the University of Virginia on the occasion of the inauguration of a president of its faculty. This was done in special commemoration of the fact that Thomas Jefferson, the founder of the university, was also an early president of the American Philosophical Society.

The meeting was opened on Wednesday afternoon at 2:30 o'clock by the president, Vice-Provost Edgar F. Smith, of the University of Pennsylvania, with a brief address of welcome, after which the following papers were presented:

The Weal-Relation: Professor LINDLEY M. KEASBEY, of Bryn Mawr, Pa.

taxonomic importance are clearly elucidated. Brief directions are then given for the collection of material and the determination of species, and this is followed by the taxonomic section which includes quite detailed descriptions of 916 species of mosses, with dichotomous keys to the families, genera and species. The system of classification adopted agrees very closely with that of Limpricht in Rabenhorst's 'Kryptogamen Flora von Deutschland.'

The second part of the work deals with the liverworts and in general arrangement follows that for the mosses. Keys and descriptions are given for 228 species. The work is bound in 'halbfranz,' and is embellished with 68 full-page lithographed plates, distributed throughout the text, of which 26 are executed in natural colors. The work is on the whole an admirable one, and it is only to be regretted that the production of such works is apparently not possible in our own country. It will form a valuable addition to the library of any student of mosses.

F. D. HEALD.

THE UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA.

SCIENTIFIC JOURNALS AND ARTICLES.

THE contents of the March issue of *Terrestrial Magnetism and Atmospheric Electricity* is as follows:

Portrait of Svante August Arrhenius, Frontispiece.

S. A. ARRHENIUS: 'On the Electric Charge of the Sun.'

C. CHREE: 'Review of Maunder's Recent Investigations on the Cause of Magnetic Disturbances.'

W. VAN BEMMELEN: 'Magnetic Survey of the Dutch East Indies.' (Third communication.)

J. ELSTER und H. GEITEL: 'Vorschläge für die Ausführung electrischer Beobachtungen während der bevorstehenden Sonnenfinsterniss.'

L. A. BAUER: 'Proposed Magnetic and Electric Observations during the Total Solar Eclipse of August 30, 1905' (Preliminary Information).

J. E. BURBANK: 'Earth Currents: and a Proposed Method for their Investigation.'

Biographical Sketch of Svante August Arrhenius.

Letters to Editor: Nachtrag zur Abhandlung 'Ueber den Einfluss der Torsion bei den Ablenkungen eines hängenden Magneten,' F. Bidlingmaier; Tortosa Observatorio del Ebro (Illustrated), R. Cirera; Principal Magnetic Disturbances recorded at Cheltenham Magnetic Observatory, December 1, 1904, to March 1, 1905, W. F. Wallis; Present Russian Magnetic Observatories, M. Rykatscheff.

SOCIETIES AND ACADEMIES.

THE AMERICAN PHYSICAL SOCIETY.

THE regular spring meeting of the Physical Society was held at the Ryerson Physical Laboratory of the University of Chicago on Friday, April 21, and Saturday, April 22, 1905. President Barus presided. The meeting was well attended, nearly all the colleges and universities within several hundred miles of Chicago being well represented. An informal dinner on Friday evening at the Quadrangle Club was a pleasant feature of the meeting. The program, which was the largest in the history of the society, is given below:

H. N. MCCOY, University of Chicago: 'On the Relation between the Radioactivity and Composition of Uranium Compounds.'

G. G. BECKNELL, Northwestern University: 'The Residual e.m.f. of the Carbon Arc.'

C. W. CHAMBERLAIN, Denison University: 'The Radius of Molecular Attraction.'

G. M. HOBBS, University of Chicago: 'The Relation between p. d. and Spark Length for Small Values of the Latter.'

CARL KINSLEY, University of Chicago: 'Short Spark Discharges.'

J. E. ALMY, University of Nebraska: 'The Influence of Electrodes upon Spark Potentials.'

J. E. ALMY, University of Nebraska: 'Note on the Potential Difference Required to Produce very Short Sparks.'

A. B. PORTER, Chicago: 'Some Oddities in Lenses.'

A. H. TAYLOR, University of Wisconsin: 'On the Possible Variation of Inductance Standards with Temperature.'

E. M. TERRY, University of Wisconsin: 'On the Variation of Capacity with Temperature.'

A. H. TAYLOR, University of Wisconsin: 'On the Comparison of Mutual Inductances.'

R. T. HERDEGEN, University of Wisconsin: 'The Comparison of the Mutual Inductance of a Pair of Coils with the Self-induction of One of Them.'

O. M. STEWART, University of Missouri: 'The Use of the Quadrant Electrometer in Measuring Current.'